



***United States Attorney
Southern District of New York***

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CONTACT: U.S. ATTORNEY'S OFFICE
HERBERT HADAD, MEGAN GAFFNEY
PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE
(212) 637-2600

**COLOMBIAN PRESIDENT URIBE APPROVES EXTRADITION
OF ALLEGED CALI CARTEL LEADER TO U.S. AUTHORITIES
IN NEW YORK ON CHARGES OF LAUNDERING \$1 BILLION**

DAVID N. KELLEY, the United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, and ANTHONY PLACIDO, the Special Agent in Charge of the New York Division of the United States Drug Enforcement Administration ("DEA"), announced today that Colombian President Alvaro Uribe signed the final order of extradition for GILBERTO RODRIGUEZ-OREJUELA, the alleged leader of the notorious Cali Cartel, to New York on money laundering charges.

The previously unsealed Southern District of New York Indictment charges RODRIGUEZ-OREJUELA with money laundering in connection with his efforts to insulate more than \$1 billion in narcotics proceeds derived from the notorious Cali Cartel from law enforcement detection and seizure. The extradition order signed by President Uribe also approved the extradition of RODRIGUEZ-OREJUELA to Miami, Florida, on related narcotics charges.

As alleged in the Indictment, from at least 1982, RODRIGUEZ-OREJUELA controlled a powerful Colombian narcotics-trafficking organization based in Cali, Colombia (the "Cali Cartel"). As alleged in the Indictment, by the defendant's own admissions, during this time period, the Cali Cartel transported and sold approximately 30,000 kilograms of cocaine, generating an illicit fortune worth in excess of \$1 billion.

As alleged in the Indictment, in order to insulate the illicit fortune of the Cali Cartel from law enforcement detection and seizure, RODRIGUEZ-OREJUELA and his criminal associates invested the Cali Cartel's illicit fortune derived from the drug trade in ostensibly legitimate companies, including companies involved in the production and sale of pharmaceutical drugs.

Although RODRIGUEZ-OREJUELA was initially identified in public documents in Colombia as a partner in several of the companies, he subsequently attempted to conceal his continuing ownership and control of these companies to insulate his illicit assets from seizure by law enforcement authorities, it was charged. As part of his efforts at concealment, GILBERTO RODRIGUEZ-OREJUELA allegedly arranged for his companies to be held under the names of family members or trusted associates when, in fact, the companies continued to be controlled by the defendant.

As alleged in the Indictment, on about October 21,

1995, President William Jefferson Clinton, pursuant to the authority granted by, among other things, the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, Sections 1701 to 1706 of Title 50 of the United States Code, signed Executive Order 12978, entitled "Blocking Assets and Prohibiting Transactions with Significant Narcotics Traffickers." In the Order, President Clinton declared a national emergency based on the threat posed to the United States by significant narcotics traffickers centered in Colombia and applied economic sanctions against, among others, RODRIGUEZ-OREJUELA, and delegated the enforcement and the regulation of the economic sanctions to the Department of the Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control ("OFAC").

Based on the continuing threat posed to the United States by significant narcotics traffickers centered in Colombia, on or about October 16, 2001, President George W. Bush continued the national emergency declared in Executive Order 12978. From October 21, 1995, to the present, OFAC has persisted in applying economic sanctions against numerous companies effectively controlled by RODRIGUEZ-OREJUELA and against other criminal associates of the Cali Cartel.

As charged in the Indictment, between about October 21, 1995, and the present, in an attempt to promote his evasion of OFAC sanctions, and in violation of United States law, RODRIGUEZ-OREJUELA and his associates removed their names from companies

that had been sanctioned by OFAC. In addition, after the companies themselves were subsequently sanctioned by OFAC, RODRIGUEZ-OREJUELA, with the assistance of others, established "new" or "re-organized" companies from the previously sanctioned companies, it was charged. In fact, these "new" or "re-organized" companies simply assumed the assets and continued to perform the services of previously sanctioned companies and often had the same management and physical business locations as previously sanctioned companies. After the "new" or "re-organized" companies were formed to protect their assets and to evade OFAC sanctions, RODRIGUEZ-OREJUELA and his criminal associates then named additional family members and trusted associates who had not been sanctioned by OFAC to manage the companies, according to the charges.

The charges were the result of a joint Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force ("OCDETF") investigation entitled "Operation Dynasty," which involved the United States Attorney's Office for the Southern District of New York, the DEA, OFAC, the Colombian National Police ("CNP"), and the Colombian Fiscalía Money Laundering Section.

If convicted of the money laundering charge in the Indictment, RODRIGUEZ-OREJUELA faces a maximum sentence of 20 years in prison. In addition, the defendant faces forfeiture of \$1 billion, representing the illicit fortune generated by the

Cali Cartel's criminal activities.

Mr. KELLEY praised the investigative efforts of the DEA, the Treasury Department's OFAC, the CNP, and the Colombian Fiscalia Money Laundering Section.

Assistant United States Attorneys RICHARD SULLIVAN, BOYD M. JOHNSON III, and KEVIN R. PUVALOSKI are in charge of the prosecution.

The charges contained in the Indictment are merely accusations, and the defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.

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